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CHAL-0242
Copy 4 of 5.

16 July 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR : Mr. Bissell

SUBJECT : Discussion with Gen. Cabell on CHALICE ME
Coverage and [redacted]

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1. On 15 July Jim Heber and I briefed Gen. Cabell with regard to the proposed method of providing Middle East coverage urgently requested by Navy. The naval requirement is for daily coverage of Alexandria and Port Said. Gen. Cabell was advised as follows:

a. That Detachment B has the capability to provide the coverage and could start the daily flight on 16 July.

b. That URPIC-I at Adana has the capability of providing "flash" reports directly to Washington to CNO and back to Sixth Fleet, and that the time delay involved in handling the information in this manner is not significant -- 30 minutes to an hour delay as opposed to the security risk by handling the reports locally at Adana and thence to Sixth Fleet.

2. Gen. Cabell advised that daily requirements may be in excess of one flight per day and desired to know the short range and long range maximum capability of Detachment B. He was advised that Detachment B will receive an additional aircraft in the near future and with four aircraft and careful mission planning, two flights per day could be launched on a continuing basis. If the present plan to have two aircraft and a small detachment [redacted] to complete [redacted]

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[redacted] goes through, during the time these aircraft and personnel are in place [redacted] the capability for Mid East coverage would be about a mission a day on a continuing basis.

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3. Gen. Cabell mentioned that it might be well to ask SAC for assistance in the Mid East if our capability is exceeded. His feeling was that since SAC desired to develop its capability and exercise its force, such a request might well give SAC or USAF Hqs an opportunity to carefully review their actual capability at this time with regard to staging operations and high altitude photo work. Mr. Heber felt this should be carefully considered prior to making the request in the light of security aspects, cover, and jeopardy of future primary missions of the project. This ended the discussion with regard to SAC participation.

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4. Gen. Cabell was advised that in view of the current situation as well as the lack of Air Force coordination on the [redacted] you had been contacted by telephone and the decision made to delay [redacted] (At the staff meeting I proposed this delay provided no complications were involved. All staff heads advised the delay would have no ill effect logistically, weatherwise, operationally, or with regard to the immediacy of the requirements.

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5. In concluding this matter, Gen. Cabell requested that I recheck the capability of Detachment 3 to determine what in the way of equipment and people would be needed to continue at least a daily sortie rate with perhaps two sorties a day from Adana [redacted] Further, that if any serious problems were foreseen, he should be advised.

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7. Aircraft Accidents. Gen. Cabell was briefed with regard to the Del Rio accidents and was advised of the operational and maintenance precautions undertaken by CHALICE. He was advised that although all flights for the past few days have been cleared through project headquarters, our intention is to return authority for test hops and local flights to the field commanders on 17 July. For your information, this will cause very little change in the present procedure since Stan's flights are on an urgent basis and Hack's are typhoon coverage and in both cases the units receive the go-no-go from here. The entire incident has caused no more than one day's slippage in the Edwards test program.

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WILLIAM BURKE
Colonel, USAF
Deputy Director, DPS/DCI

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